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Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

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Amendments to the title:

The Title found on the cover page is amended as follows:

A Polynucleotide Encoding MREI1 MRE11 Binding Polypeptide and Uses Thereof

Serial No. 09/538,396 TC/A.U. 1638

Amendments to the Abstract:

The Abstract on page 67 is amended as follows:

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides isolated polynucleotides encoding MREI1 MREI1 binding polypeptides, recombinant expression cassettes, host cells, and transgenic plants comprising said polynucleotides.